Gator

Gazette

AIR FORCE RESERVE COMMAND o 917th WING, BARKSDALE AFB, LA o SEPTEMBER 1999



Staff Sgt. Arthur Miller, heavy equipment operator, cuts concrete.

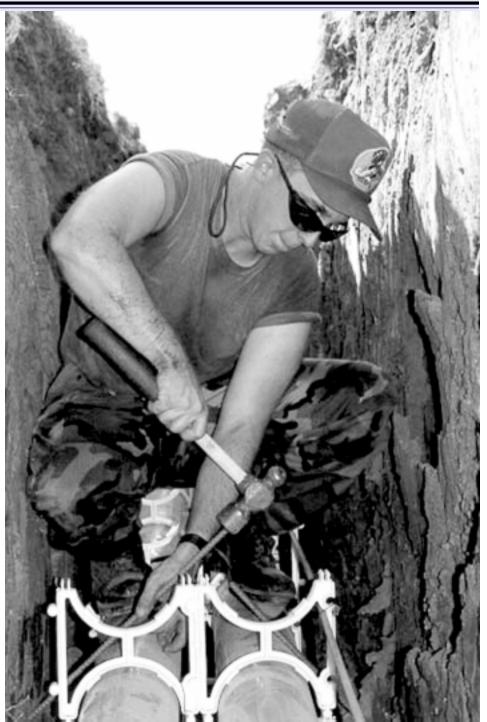
Mission continues in spite of F-5 tornado

By Airman 1st Class Shannon Collins Public Affairs Office

Challenged by one of the wettest springs in Oklahoma history and a F-5 tornado, Det. 1, 307th REDHORSE Squadron airmen began work on a six month project at Tinker Air Force Base burying high voltage cables underground in May.

"This system was deteriorated and in need of some repairs," said Master Sgt. Gene Wandling, 307th, superintendent of power production." It will have less environmental impact underground, because it's not exposed to all the elements. Cosmetically, it looks better."

"The first two months, May and June, we were looking for Noah's Ark," Tech. Sgt. Paul Cassidy, 307th RHS, project manager, said with a chuckle. On May 3rd, a tornado



PHOTOS BY AIRMAN 1ST CLASS SHANNON COLLINS

Senior Airman Robert Smith, electrician, hammers stakes around a conduit to hold it in place. The conduit holds the electrical wires, and concrete and dirt are used to fill the hole and protect the conduit.

came through and set the team behind schedule by three days.

"The first two months of rain and then the tornado disrupted everything at Tinker," said Major Jeffrey Hough, 507th Civil Engineering Squadron, operations flight chief. "They're trying to dig ditches, and that's (**REDHORSE** continued on page 4)

A message from the Group Commander

Gator Gazette

917th Wing Office of Public Affairs 1000 Davis Avenue E Bldg. 6803, Rm. 229 Barksdale AFB, LA 71110 Vol. 6 No. 9 September 1999

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As the leaves begin to change in the Northeast and young men turn their thoughts from baseball to football, the 917th Wing will once again don chemical warfare gear. This annual ritual will allow all of us to remember the warmth of the coat and pants, the smell of the mask and the taste of the fresh filtered air. I know we all look forward to the October Readiness Exercise and our chance to practice our war fighting skills and fulfill the requirements of Air Force Regulations.

This year's scenario includes both conventional and chemical attacks during aircraft regeneration. The exercise is designed to involve the entire Wing. Each unit will participate in the attack response as a Wing and will design additional training at the commander's discretion. All units will review buddy care, security, Mission-Oriented Protective Posture (MOPP) levels, explosive ordinance disposal identification and reporting procedures.

Some unit members will be asked to perform additional duties during the exercise. These personnel will man the Survival Recovery Center, the Apple Orchard, the contamination control area and build sweep teams. Members of these teams will be identified during the September UTA and will receive specialized training in September and on Saturday of the October UTA.

Master Sgt. Bob Even, the Wing Readiness NCO, will conduct the training of the CCA team. Air Force readiness experts have totally redesigned the decontamination procedure. Gone are all the shuffle boxes, replaced by a liquid system. For this exercise, we will limit the decontamination to training the CCA team. The rest of the Wing will have to wait for refresher training to experience the new



Col. Richard S. Schmidt

improved CCA.

Maj. Anna Schulte will train the sweep teams. Because of the limited duration of the exercise, like the CCA team, the sweep teams' paticipation will be limited to training and attack response.

The actual Attack Response Exercise will take place on Sunday morning. All members of the Wing are expected to participate. The Wing Commander has asked that to the extent possible each unit should minimize rescheduling of the October UTA.

October promises to be a busy UTA. We begin with a weigh in, then a three-mile walk, and we will exercise our war fighting skills. It just doesn't get any better than that. You will know that you are soldiers when we finish.

Chaplain's Corner: A time to be thankful

By Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Charles R. Langford

The Monday before the September UTA is Labor Day. Traditionally, it marks the end of summer and the older ones of us in the unit remember when school did not start before then. For many it will be just another day off for sun and family, but it can be celebrated differently.

As reservists, we are allowed time away from family and work so we may serve. Shouldn't we make it a point to thank spouse, children, and employer for their understanding and support? Not one of us would be in the 917th for very long if the family we left behind resented it. If our employer didn't think what we did here was important and worth the sacrifice of our productivity, who of us would be here? Let us thank those who make it possible to serve.

Additionally, all of us would do well to remember the God who makes it all possible. We are fit and healthy enough to work. We have talents and skills which enable us to make significant contributions to our nation's defense. All of these are God-given, let's not take them for granted.

Have a safe and enjoyable Labor Day. I look forward to working with you.

In brief

Supplies available for pickup

These items were back-ordered by reservists over the last 120 days and need to be picked up as soon as possible. Listed below are the first five letters of the person's name and the items awaiting pickup:

Brigh BDU jacket Flore Ear defenders Ear defenders **Johns** Liner, gortex **Johns** BDU jacket liner King

Parka Headset Liner, gortex Parne Reser Liner, gortex Stoke Liner, gortex

Gator Gazette survey result

The June issue of the Gator Gazette contained a survey concerning our wing newspaper.

The results of the survey reflected that the Gator Gazette was meeting the needs of reservist in most areas.

According to the survey, our readers want more mission related, AFRC, family and unit people news.

Our staff will do its best to give the readers what they need and want. If anyone knows of any newsworthy event, contact the PA office at 456-9181.

Golf tournament scheduled for September

The Commander's Cup Golf Tournament is scheduled for September 11. The tournament is a shotgun start, four person scramble. Tee off time is 2 p.m. The cost per player is \$20 and includes golf cart, dinner, door prizes and drinks.

Participants can sign up with any committee member: Jessica D'Aurizio (Public Affairs), Steve Lindberg (Supply), Tom Smith (93rd Maintenance), Randy Sallee (Command Post) or Allen Atkins (Quality Assurance). Each person will be responsible for paying their green fees at the pro shop before the tournament begins. Also, participants must arrive at work that morning at 6 a.m. to start their work day.

Following the tournament, a dinner will be served at the clubhouse with prizes awarded to 1st, 2nd, 3rd and last place, Longest Drive, Closest to the Pin and Most Accurate Drive. Door prizes will also be given at this time.

Billeting check-in changes

A new fiscal year begins on October 1st and it's also the date when members begin arriving for the Unit Training Assembly. New contracts are done on fiscal years, so our lodging contract will not be in place prior to the Oct. UTA. Given this and the amount of money lost last year due to "no shows" and "walk ins," lodging procedures will be changed.

Members needing billeting will report to the base billeting office for their room assignments. The 917th Services personnel will be there during arrival hours to process room assignments. There will be signs directing you to the proper location.

Members will sign the roster, now being done at the hotel, and receive their hotel assignment.

They will proceed to the designated hotel, present the desk clerk with their reservation slip and get their room for the weekend.

This process will be continually

looked at, and a committee of billeting users will meet to make suggestions on how the process might be improved.

Training classes available

The 917th Training Office has received dates for fiscal year 2000 training classes. Interested personnel should contact their supervisors if interested in enrolling in these classes.

The next NCO LDP class is scheduled for Oct. 27-30 and Nov 3-7.

The 917th is allowed one NCO Academy quota for each class scheduled in fiscal year 2000. The academy classes are located at Keesler AFB, Miss. and Maxwell AFB, Ala.

For more information contact Master Sgt. Pat Roberson at 456-8066.

Reserve dental information

Non-flying or non-rated members require a dental exam every five years and flyers require an exam every three

Missed dental exams and subsequent follow-ups will result in an AF Form 422 stating the member's dental exam has expired and the member does not meet medical standards. Member may not participate in any pay or point gaining activities until he or she meets medical standards.

The lab and dental section make up part one of the physical exam and will be completed Saturday of the UTA; part two is the medical exam and it is to be completed Saturday of the following

Point of contact for missed appointments is your unit physical exam monitor or Tech. Sgt. Arline Johnson at 456-8983.

The day began very dreary. After paying all the bills, I have twenty dollars to last me until Friday. I

Education at your service By Staff Sgt. Ken Rooding

Fourteen ears

me the percentage of

students who pass in

different subjects.

missed college registration again. Did it matter anyway? I certainly didn't have the cash. Plus, the college class I wanted was on Tuesday night, and I have a hard time finding a sitter for my 3-year-old child on Tuesdays.

Saturday at the UTA, I was leaning over my desk, scratching my head, when a staff sergeant gave me some tremendous news about the education and training office. I could test for free in math, government, history, psychology and more.

I asked twice, "It's free?" She said yes. It was not the only good news. An airman at the education and training office gave me sample questions on the tests I wanted to take; she also showed

and seven smiles greeted me at the 917th Wing Education and Training office. They listen. I told them my aspiration, and they gave me advice not only on these free tests but on distant-learning money and how I can earn up to \$250 a month on the Montgomery GI Bill. The amazing thing is that the education and training office has so much information and is currently trying to get this message to everyone.

Please, go and see them. I guarantee you'll be happy with the opportunities you are exposed to. They feel good when they help their fellow servicemembers reach for their "stars" in the sky.



Tech. Sgt. Paul Cassidy, project manager, directs the concrete driver on where to pour the concrete. They are pouring the concrete into the ditch to protect the conduit from damage.



Senior Airman Kevin Bright, structures, shows Senior Airman Richard Ison, structures, how to fix a concrete diamond-tip chainsaw.

(**REDHORSE** continued from page 1)

where all the water winds up. It made them have to redo work. The weather finally changed for the better, and the crews made progress."

Once the weather cleared up, the REDHORSE airmen received some unique training. "This is an 'out-of-tradition' project," said Wahdling. "In the eight years I've been with REDHORSE, we have not worked on a high voltage project of this magnitude. We'll do some of the minor hookups that might involve some high voltage, but not near the amount of installation that's involved here. It's very good training for our electricians."

One 307th RHS airman is pleased to receive this extra training. "I'm here to advance my background in both my military and civilian jobs by learning everything I can about high voltage distribution systems," said Senior Airman Robert Smith, an electrician.

Excess water, 100 degree weather with a 105 degree index and even a F-5 tornado did not stop approximately forty 307th RHS airmen from working on their mission. The project is scheduled to be completed around September 15th.



PHOTOS BY AIRMAN 1ST CLASS SHANNON COLLINS Tech. Sgt. Lloyd Blackshire, heavy equipment operator, sweeps dirt off of the concrete in preparation for pouring asphalt.

Last green A-10 trainer dismantled at 917th



PHTOTOS BY AIRMAN 1ST CLASS SHANNON COLLINS

Top - Staff Sgt. Bert Maxwell, 940th Combat Logistics Support Squadron removes bolts from the top of the wing while Master Sgt. Randy Robb, 940 CLSS removes bolts from underneath the wing.

Right - Master Sgts. Al Shaffer and Randy Robb, 940 CLSS remove wing bolts.



PHOTOS BY AIRMAN 1ST CLASS SHANNON COLLINS

Staff Sgt. Jim Wilkerson, 917th Civil Engineering Squadron, nails the Air Force Reserve emblem back into place on the Wing headquarters building after cleaning it.

Engineers spruce up 917th

By Betty Stephens Public Affairs Office

Some members of the 917th Civil Engineering Squadron were busy during the week of July 19 - 23 with mid-summer sprucing. They trimmed the trees, replaced obsolete Air Combat Command and Air Force Reserve signs. They also, hung the newly finished Wing sign, which had the name changed and was cleaned by Staff Sergeants Ron Harsen and Cartria Carthern of the 917th Wing Sign Shop.

All of the sprucing was done because the engineering assistant, Mr. Layton Wehling, and his crew were in the spirit of keeping the outside beautiful at home as well as away. It was all in time for a visit from ACC commander, General Ed Eberhart.

Security Forces train on ATVs

By Airman 1st Class Shannon Collins

Six Security Forces airmen trained on the All Terrain Vehicles during the August UTA for the first time.

According to Staff Sgt. Brad Grimmett, Security Forces, ATV instructor, the only training SF airmen can get on the ATVs is at the Wing. The four to five hour class is taught twice a year. The next class will be early next spring.

"Whenever we're out in the field, we run a lot of our equipment using the ATVs," Grimmett said. "We have to run equipment from the command post to the holes. The only way you can operate an ATV is to take this course. You can't sit on it, you can't do anything. The more riders we have, the better off we are." The airmen learn basic maneuvers during the course.

"I teach them everything from stopping, starting, quick turns, maneuvering and stopping in a turn," Grimmett said. "At the end, they go on a trail ride through the woods. Everything starts with the book."

Then, they get practical experience by being on the ATVs and riding it, Grimmett said.



PHOTOS BY AIRMAN 1ST CLASS SHANNON COLLINS Top - Staff Sgt. Brad Grimmett, Security Forces, All Terrain Vehicle instructor, checks the controls on the ATV to make sure they are working properly.

Right - Grimmett, Security Forces, ATV instructor, teaches the students how to properly mount and control the vehicle.



Voices: Employer support is essential to the effectiveness of the Air Force Reserve. What are your employers' perceptions of the Reserve and what kind of cooperation do you get from them?



Staff Sgt. Melvin Cargill 917th Security Forces

"My employer and supervisor at Red Ball Oxygen are former military and understand the value of the reserve and support me whenever I need time off."



Senior Airman Tammy Morris 917th Mission Support

"My supervisor is very cooperative when I have to come to the base for drill or for annual tour."



Senior Airman Roy Moss 917th Medical

"I don't have any conflict with my employer for weekend UTA's, because I don't work any weekends. A lot of my coworkers think it's great that I'm in the reserve."



Senior Airman Loretta Saunders 307th REDHORSE

"My employers think it is great that I am in the reserve and support me 100 percent."

Welcome incoming 917th recruiters



Senior Master Sgt. John Brasher, is the new Senior Recruiter, he joined us from Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio.

Master Sgt. Larry Giles is the new Recruiting Office Manager for the 917th. He is joining our staff from Sheppard AFB, Texas.



Master Sgt. Joseph Meena, Jr., is the new In-Service Recruiter joining us from Whiteman AFB, Mo.



"A Vision for the 21st Century"

National Hispanic Heritage month is celebrated September 15 - October 15. It lets us recognize America's cultural diversity. The contributions of all citizens have made America's fabric strong throughout its history.

The U. S. has a rich history that goes back 218 years and Hispanics have played major roles in building this history. Latinos have prominently participated in: building the West, medicine and science, entertainment, business, education, civil rights, politics, and in the great American pastime of baseball.

The 1999 Hispanic Heritage Month theme is "A Vision for the 21st Century". The 917th Wing joins the Barksdale Community in celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month and challenges those of this heritage to share their culture with others in order to foster understanding amongst diverse cultures.

The following is a tentative schedule of events occurring during Hispanic Heritage Month:

Sept. 15 - Proclamation Signing

Sept. 18 & Oct. 2 - Latin Dancing at the NCO Club

Oct. 1, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Food Tasting with Dance Demonstrations at Hoban Hall (tickets will be sold).

Oct. 15 - Retreat; Articles will be featured in the Observer, along with Hispanics being featured in the Cajun Warrior section. For more information, contact Senior Airman Helga Nahoopii at 456-3826.

Other Suggested ways to celebrate:

- Volunteer in English classes to help immigrants lean English.
- Learn how to surf the net and visit the various Latino web sites.
- Learn about issues affecting Latinos (i.e. English-only, immigration, affirmative action, welfare reform, education, youth, etc.).
- Speak out against immigrant-bashing, prejudice, and racism.
- Give to Hispanic causes and charities that are working to help the community and youth such as the National Hispanic Scholarship Fund.

Reserve forces forge ahead into new millennium

By Paul Stone American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON (AFPN) — A year-long Department of Defense-wide study recently released by the Pentagon may greatly improve the way reserve component forces are trained, organized and utilized into the new millennium.

That's the assessment by Charles Cragin, acting assistant secretary of defense for reserve affairs. He was a key player in conducting the study "Reserve Component Employment 2005.

"I think it's exciting because the only constant we have in our society today is the constant of change," Cragin said. "This is an inclusive look at how we're going to utilize and rely on the Guard and Reserve in the future. I think members of the Guard and Reserve are going to get a lot of professional and personal satisfaction as we clearly delineate some of the existing missions, as well as new missions."

Cragin said RCE-05 focused on homeland defense, smaller-scale contingencies and major theater wars. Within those three areas, the study recommended changes for the near future and identified issues for further study. For example, within homeland defense, the assistant secretary of defense for command, control, communications and intelligence, the Defense Information Systems Agency and the services are working to stand up a 400-person, joint reserve component virtual information operations unit—an initiative Cragin said breaks out of the mold to capitalize on existing skills and technology.

"The classic way we have always worked is in a unit, and you bring everybody into one geographic location. Well, that isn't terribly cost effective if what we're looking for is their professional expertise," Cragin said. "We have the ability through advanced communications systems to interconnect people so they become a virtual unit.

Issues within homeland defense recommended for further study include:

- Determining more precisely how reserve component units can contribute to homeland defense. This may mean dual missions or restructuring units to focus only on homeland defense, as do the Rapid Assessment and Initial Detection teams being trained to respond to incidents involving nuclear, chemical or biological weapons.
- Examining how to integrate the reserve

components into the Joint Task Force Headquarters for Homeland Defense being developed by the Atlantic Command.

• Employing reserve component personnel for national missile defense missions. Cragin said a major part of the study regarding small-scale contingencies focused on operations tempo and rotational duration.

"What we're trying to do is take a look at what is the right rotational duration as it relates to commanders' requirements and to reserve component members' responsibilities with their employers," Cragin said.

The Air Force, for example, is looking at 90-day rotations for its new expeditionary forces.

"Perhaps that's the appropriate duration for reserve deployments as well," he remarked. "We'll continue to look at that issue."

The study examined two critical issues regarding major theater wars: the definition of strategic reserve and the improvement of post-mobilization training for reserve component forces. Cragin explained that a major Cold War role of the reserve components was to serve as a strategic reserve in the event of global war. Because the issue hasn't been addressed in years, he said, DOD will conduct a follow-on two-part study to redefine the strategic reserve and the military requirements for strategic reserve missions.

Other major theater war recommendations included the following actions for consideration:

- Within the Air Force, creating "associate program squadrons" in tactical fighter squadrons comprised of reservists to fill shortages and guarantee full manning in wartime.
- Transferring one B-52 and one B-1B squadron from the active to reserve component to help alleviate the current shortage of active duty pilots.
- Converting one Air Force fighter wing from active to reserve component.

Calling RCE-05 "a great step forward," Cragin said it would be wrong to consider it only a reserve component study.

"This involves how the total force operates and functions and how to take advantage of the expertise, professionalism and dedication of every man and woman in the force," he said.

SERVICES

917th Military Personnel Flight

Bldg. 6803, Room 140, ext. 9205 Saturday

7 - 11 a.m. - Newcomers in-processing. 11 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. -All customer service functions (open during lunch)

Sunday

7 - 8 a.m. - Closed for training. 8 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. - All customer service functions (open during lunch) 2:30 - 4 p.m. - Closed for training.

NOTE: Customer Service Functions include in & out processing, ID cards, DEERS, DD93s, SGLI, Vehicle Decals, Record Reviews, etc.

Base Billeting

Bldg. 5155, 456-3091/3092

Open 24 hours a day, seven days a week (reservations required).

Chaplain

Bldg. 6803, Room 239, 456-9179 Saturday & Sunday - 7 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Red River Dining Hall

Bldg. 4631

Breakfast - 5:30 - 6:30a.m. Lunch MS - 11 - 1 47FS - 11:45 WG - 11 MSS - 11:45 93 BS - 11:15

CES - 12 SPS - 12:15

Shuttle service to the dining hall runs every 20 minutes starting at 11 a.m.. Pick-up points are Bldg. 6850 and Bldg. 6825 (northeast side of Bldg. 6803)

NOTE: You must show ID card, newcomer's letter or DD form 1172.

Family Readiness Center

Bldg. 4713

Saturday & Sunday - 8 - 11 a.m.

Military drivers license

Military drivers license issue is available on the main UTA in bldg. 6825, Rm. 240. Issue hours are as follows:

Saturday 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Sunday noon - 2 p.m.

Lodging

For information on official or space A lodging call 1-888-AF-LODGE. Once the automated system answers, key in the first three letters of the base you are trying to reach.

Military Pay

UTA hours of operation: Sat. 7 a.m. - 4 p.m. Sun. 1 p.m. -5:30 p.m.

917th Wing Training Schedule

September	UTA	11-12
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īme	Event	Location	Participants
Saturday			
0600	UTA prayer breakfast	Red River Inn Dining Hall	Everyone welcome
0630-0700	Sign in	Assigned unit	Personnel assigned
0700	Wing staff meeting	Bldg. 6803, Rm. 105	All unit commanders
0700	Short fly physicals	Flight surgeon's office	Flyers
0700-0830	Intro all newcomers	Bldg. 6803, Rm. 227 (auditorium)	All newcomers
0700-1000	Body fat measurements	Base hospital, Family practice clinic	
0700-1030	Immunizations	Base hospital	
0730-0800	Physicals	Inside base hospital foyer	See phys exam monitor
0730-0930	EO 2000 (Part 1)	NCO Academy theater	307th REDHORSE only
0800	Chem. Warfare Refresher		As scheduled
0900	Anti-terrorism training	Bldg. 6803, Rm. 227	Everyone welcome
0900	OJT training mtg.	Bldg. 6803, Rm. 123	Unit training monitors
0900-1100	Outlook 98	STARBASE	Scheduled personnel
0930, 1030 & 1330	Family readiness briefing		As scheduled
1000	First sergeants meeting	Bldg. 6803, Rm. 105	First sergeants
1000	Unit deploy. managers	Bldg. 6803, Rm 227	As assigned
1200-1430	Immunizations	47th Hanger	All welcome
1300	Chem. Warfare Refresher	_	As scheduled
1300	Wing safety training	Bldg. 6803, Rm. 227	Unit safety reps.
1300-1500	Intro. to Word Access	STARBASE	Scheduled personnel
1400	Commander's Cup	Base golf course	All welcome
1550-1615	Sign-out 1550 MS	1600 MS, CES, MSS, WG	1610 LS
Sunday	Sign-out 1330 MS	1000 MS, CES, MSS, WG	1010 LS
0630-0700	Sign in	Assigned Unit	Personnel assigned
0800	Chief's meeting	Bldg. 6803, Rm. 105	All chief's
0800	Human Relations	Bldg. 6803, Rm. 227	As needed
0730-0930		•	
0830 & 1230	EO 2000 (Part2)	NCO Academy theater	307th REDHORSE only
	EOC testing	Bldg. 4314, 3rd floor (by Burger King)	Scheduled by unit
0900	Intranet Web Page	Bldg. 6803, Rm. 123 (T NET)	Personnel assigned As needed
0900	Substance Abuse	Bldg. 6803, Rm. 227	
0900	Unit advisory council	Bldg. 6803, Rm. 105	Unit representative
0900	Catholic Mass	Base Chapel 2	Everyone welcome
0900	9	Bldg. 4714, conference room	Assigned personnel
0900-1100	Introduction to Excel 97	STARBASE	Scheduled personnel
1000	UPAR training	Bldg. 6803, Rm. 105	Assigned personnel
1015-1100	Protestant services	Bldg. 6803, Rm. 227 (auditorium)	Everyone welcome
1030	Family readiness briefing		As scheduled
1300	Eyeglass inserts	Bldg. 4845 (opposite main entrance to base	
1300	Flightline drivers training		All welcome
1430	SORTS meeting	Bldg. 6803, Rm. 105	Unit commanders
1515	47th commanders call	Bldg. 6803, Rm. 227	Assigned personnel
1550-1615	Sign-out 1550 MS	1600 MS, CES, MSS, WG	1610 LS

UIA Sche	du	le
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Main	Alternate		
Sep. 11-12	Sep. 18-19		
Oct. 2-3	Oct. 16-17		
Nov. 6-7	Nov. 20-21		
Dec. 4-5	Dec. 11-12		
Jan. 8-9	Jan. 22-23		
Feb. 5-6	Feb. 12-13		
Mar. 4-5	Mar. 11-12		
Apr. 1-2	Apr. 8-9		
May 6-7	May 20-21		
June 3-4	June 10-11		

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